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MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997 CONCERNING THE DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

Note by the Secretariat

1. In accordance with the relevant parts of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1 (1987)), the portion of the draft programme on international drug control of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 that is to be carried out by the Division of Narcotic Drugs was submitted to the Commission at its thirty-third session for review and comments (E/CN.7/1989/CRP.10, part II and annex III).

2. Because of the limited time at its disposal, the Commission at its thirty-third session did not review in depth the draft medium-term plan. On the recommendation of the Commission, the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 concerning the drug control programme was included as item 6 of the provisional agenda for the eleventh special session of the Commission, which was approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1989/119.

3. At its thirty-third session, the Commission also recommended that paragraph 67 of the introduction to the medium-term plan, contained in the note by the Secretary-General on the preparation of the next medium-term plan (A/43/329, annex), should be revised to reflect more accurately the content of the international drug control programme. 1/ A proposed reformulation of this paragraph has been submitted to the Commission for its consideration and review (see annex). In addition, several representatives and speakers at the thirty-third session expressed the view that, in order for the Commission to give appropriate consideration to the international drug control programme, it would not only need to review the programme of work of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, but would also need to consider, at the same time, those of the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse

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*E/CN.7/1990/1.

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Control (UNFDAC). 2/ Consequently, the draft programmes of work of the Division of Narcotic Drugs and of the secretariat of INCB have been submitted to the Commission (E/CN.7/1990/CRP.14, parts I and II). The UNFDAC medium-term plan for the period 1989-1993 is contained in document E/CN.7/1990/CRP.14/Add.1. The draft programme of work of the secretariat of INCB was reviewed by the Board at its fourty-fifth session in May 1989. The UNFDAC medium-term plan for the period 1989-1993 was developed in 1989 at the request of several donor Governments for the purpose of securing additional resources for funding drug control programmes. UNFDAC intends to update it on an annual basis.

4. The portion of the draft programme on international drug control of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 that is to be carried out by the Division of Narcotic Drugs has been submitted to the Commission for its consideration and review. It is divided into two main parts. The first part, entitled "General mandate, overall orientation and objectives of the programme", is a proposed framework for the medium-term plan. The second presents the four subprogrammes of the draft programme:

(1) Treaty implementation

(2) Applied scientific research and technical assistance

(3) Suppression of illicit traffic

(4) Demand reduction, co-ordination and information

The medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 has the same number of subprogrammes as the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 (extended to 1991), but the titles of subprogrammes 1, 3 and 4 have been modified. The proposed additional activities relate to new mandates emanating from the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.2), adopted in 1988, and General Assembly resolution 43/122, which deals with, among other things, the follow-up to the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the development of an information strategy.

5. The medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 (extended to 1991) does not include the designation of priorities among the subprogrammes of the major programme on international drug control. In accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1 (1987)), the designation of priorities by competent intergovernmental bodies is required. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 41/213, 42/215, 43/219 and 44/194, re-emphasized the importance of designating priorities. The Commission may wish to consider giving high priority to subprogramme 1 of the Division, on treaty implementation, in order to reflect the fundamental importance attached by Member States to the treaty system, which covers all aspects of international drug control. This should be done without prejudice to the importance of other components of the programme. In order to cope with problems associated with drug abuse and illicit trafficking, a balanced approach is required. Action must therefore be aimed not only at reducing the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of and trafficking in drugs, but also, at the same time, at further promoting demand reduction and the eventual social reintegration of drug abusers. The functions of the Secretariat outlined in the four proposed subprogrammes of the Division of Narcotic Drugs are complementary, equally essential and mutually reinforcing. In considering the priorities to be set among the subprogrammes, it should be

borne in mind that the medium-term plan can be revised every other year. Thus, at its thirty-fourth session, the Commission will have the opportunity to revise the content and structure of the programme, as well as the priorities among the subprogrammes, and to take into consideration any new mandates that may emerge from the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, which will be held in New York from 20 to 23 February 1990.

6. Recommendations made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will be taken into account by the Secretary-General in revising this draft medium-term plan for submission to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, in 1990. The programme narrative of the draft plan is preliminary; it might change once the draft has been revised. As is the case with the programme budget, the approval of the medium-term plan is a prerogative of the General Assembly.

7. Bearing in mind the information provided above, the Commission may wish to provide comments and proposals on the following:

(a) The objectives and strategies proposed by the Division of Narcotic Drugs for the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as well as the changes proposed in the subprogramme structure;

(b) The priority among the proposed subprogrammes of the Division, in accordance with regulations 3.15 and 3.16 of the Rules and Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1 (1987)) and taking into account the relevant parts of the Secretary-General's draft introduction to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

(c) The new activities proposed by the Division for the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 5 (E/1989/23), chap. VIII, sect. C, para. 185.

2/ Ibid., para. 187.

Annex

PROPOSED REFORMULATION OF PARAGRAPH 67 OF THE DRAFT INTRODUCTION TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

"67. Eradicating drug abuse is essential to the well-being of all people, especially young people, to the international control of crime and, in many cases, to the security of individual nations. Efforts now under way to combat the drug menace, which are anchored to a series of treaties entered into by sovereign States to help meet their basic obligation of protecting the health, welfare and safety of their citizens, will continue into the next decade. The Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, adopted in 1987, which recognized the collective responsibility of States to provide appropriate resources for the elimination of illicit production, trafficking and drug abuse, and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, adopted in 1988, were a welcome expression of the political will of nations to combat the drug menace in all its forms. In formulating its programmes during the medium-term plan period, the United Nations will make practical recommendations on the basis of the general framework provided by the various international drug control treaties and, more specifically, by the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, with the ultimate goal of strengthening action and co-operation at the national, regional and international levels in order to create a world free of drug abuse."

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*A/43/329, annex.